

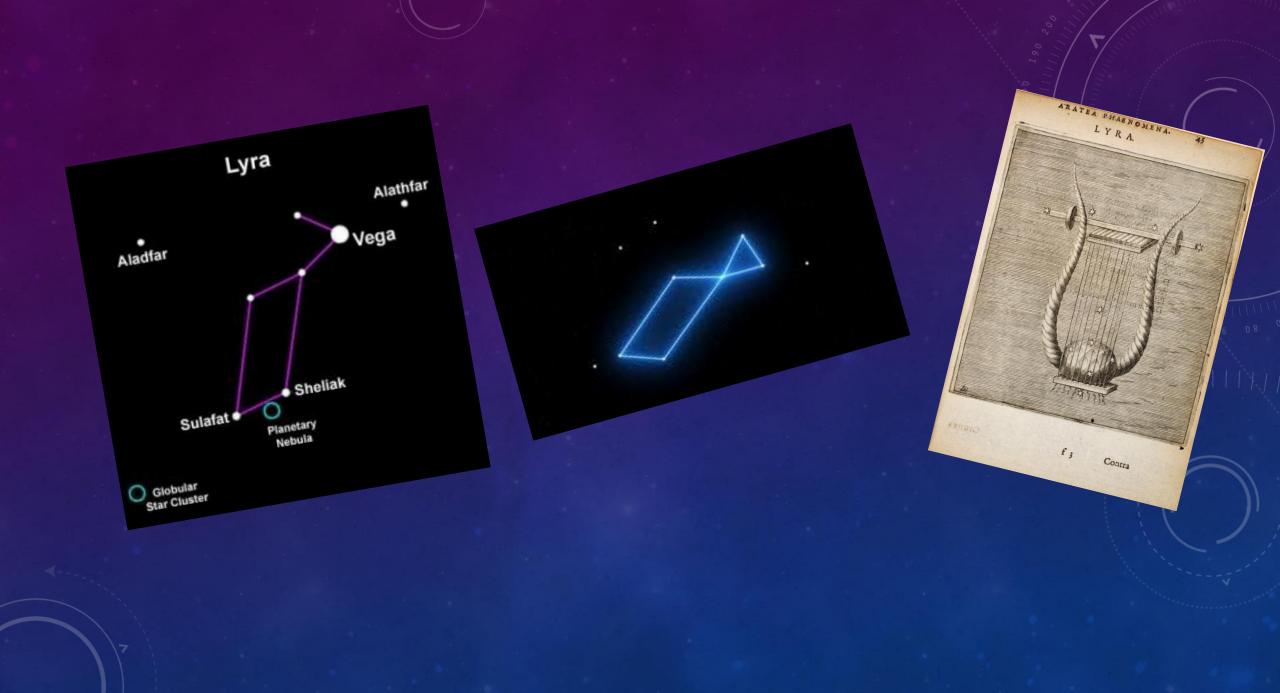




Lyra is the celestial harp invented by Hermes, and given to Orpheus by Apollo. It is said that when Orpheus played on his harp, usually love songs to his bride Eurydice, that people and animals would stop what they were doing just to listen. Some stories relate how even the trees would cease movement when he played. One day, Eurydiceas she was sleeping under a tree a shepherd approached her to rejoice Eurydice woke up and started running. Eurydice for fear did not look in front of her and did not see the snake that was wide and bit her deadly. In his loneliness, Orpheus attempted to win her back from Hades, ruler of the underworld. Orpheus began his descent into the underworld playing his lyre. As he approached Hades, he was pleased to see that Hades greatly enjoyed his music. After a while, Orpheus stopped playing his music. Hades asked him to resume playing the beautiful love songs on his lyre. Orpheus agreed on one condition: that when he had finished, Hades would release his beloved Eurydice to him. Hades agreed, and Orpheus again began to play. At the conclusion of his music, Orpheus asked Hades for his wife.



• Hades replied that she would indeed be released on one condition: that Orpheus would trust Hades to keep his word and would return to the upper world playing his music, not ever looking back to see if she were following. If Orpheus doubted or did not trust Hades and looked back, Eurydice would be taken back by Hades into the underworld. So Orpheus began his return trip playing his music. Behind him he could hear the footsteps of Eurydice, which thrilled him greatly. However, to test Orpheus' trust, the return route Hades insisted on lead through a pine grove. As Orpheus approached the upper world he passed through this pine grove, but he could not hear the footsteps of his beloved Eurydice. Unable to endure the quiet any longer, Orpheus glanced over his shoulder to witness Eurydice fade before his gaze, taken by Hades back to the underworld. Upon Orpheus' death, Zeus placed the constellation Lyra into the heavens in honor of his beautiful music and also to honor the great love Orpheus had for Eurydice.



## SAGAS IN THE SKY